

In the Specification:

In the paragraphs between page 8, line 8 to page 9, line 18, of the English translation of the specification, please make the following changes:

These objects, and others which will be made more apparent hereinafter, are attained in a stepped optical fiber, which comprises a core glass member and a cladding glass member completely surrounding the core glass member, wherein the core glass member has a core glass composition, which comprises

SiO ₂	42 to 53 % by weight,
ZnO	16 to 38 % by weight,
PbO	1 to 20 % by weight,
Na ₂ O	< 14 % by weight,
K ₂ O	< 12 % by weight,

wherein a sum total of ZnO and PbO \geq 30 % by weight and a sum total of Na₂O and K₂O is \geq 2 % by weight, and optionally at least one refining agent in a standard amount suitable for refining; and wherein the cladding glass member has a cladding glass composition, which comprises

SiO ₂	60 to 72 % by weight,
B ₂ O ₃	< 20 % by weight,
Al ₂ O ₃	< 10 % by weight,
Na ₂ O	< 18 % by weight,
K ₂ O	< 15 % by weight,

~~as well as refining agents in standard amounts~~ and optionally at least one refining agent in a standard amount for refining.

For the embodiment, in which a lead-free stepped fiber should be used, the object is attained with a lead-free stepped optical fiber, whose core glass has a composition, which comprises

SiO ₂	42 to 53 % by weight,
ZnO	30 to 38 % by weight,
Na ₂ O	< 14 % by weight,
K ₂ O	< 12 % by weight,
BaO	< 9 % by weight.

wherein a sum total of Na₂O and K₂O is ≥ 2 % by weight; and wherein the cladding glass member has a composition, which comprises

SiO ₂	60 to 72 % by weight,
B ₂ O ₃	< 20 % by weight,
Al ₂ O ₃	< 10 % by weight,
Na ₂ O	< 18 % by weight,
K ₂ O	< 15 % by weight.

The core glass and/or the cladding glass can also include a at least one refining agent in ~~standard amounts~~ a standard amount suitable for refining.